UNDP

UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME

Distributed on request
DP/PROJECTS/7501

ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO AN INTERREGIONAL PROJECT

(INT/93/679)- Social Development in the 1990s

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	30 June 1993
Expected duration:	Two years
Proposed executing agency:	United Nations
Implementing agency:	UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$1 150 000 Source of funds: IPF
Total UNDP budget:	$1 150 000

Project background

The challenges facing the world community in the 1990s are of unprecedented gravity and complexity. There is a need for governments and the development community to promote development strategies which recognize the complementarities between economic, social and political development. The decision of the General Assembly to convene a World Social Summit in March 1995 represents a historic opportunity for the world community to address these issues. It will focus on the following core areas: enhancement of social integration, particularly of disadvantaged and marginalzed groups; alleviation and reduction of poverty; and expansion of productive employment. The preparatory process for the summit will consist of Preparatory Committee meetings in Jan/Feb 1994, Aug/Sept 1994 and Jan 1995. For UNDP, as for the entire UN System, the Summit presents a major opportunity to address the key issues confronting all societies in the 1990s and beyond. In its annual Human Development Reports, UNDP has made a major intellectual contribution to the debate on the relationship between economic and social development. The preparatory process leading up to the Summit, and the Summit itself, will provide UNDP with an opportunity to contribute further to the understanding of social development and the elaboration of effective strategies and policies for social development.

UNDP is contributing to the preparations for the Social Summit in various ways, of which this project is a major component. The project, implemented by the UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), aims to mobilize the research community during the preparatory process for the Summit, and will involve a series of publications, discussions, workshops and seminars designed to focus on the key areas of concern of the Summit, and of direct use to policy makers and the development community.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS DEPT.

[1/] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

/...

Description of project

The development objective of the project is to improve the usefulness and relevance of agreements proposed and reached at the World Social Summit. The project will consist of three components: (1) Rethinking Social Development in the 1990s; (2) Ethnic Diversity and National integration; and (3) Economic Restructuring and the challenge of Social delegates to the Social Summit, representatives of non-governmental organizations, especially from countries of the South, others within the international development community, and the media. The first two workshops will cover key issues of contemporary social development, such as drugs, refugees, humanitarian assistance, the social impact of HIV/AIDS, and the livelihood implications of various kinds of environmental deterioration. Discussions will be based on brief papers synthesizing the state of knowledge in each of these areas. The third workshop will develop an integrated analysis of the major forces shaping contemporary social change. This effort is based on the premise that the rapidity and complexity of social change in recent decades have made many received concepts and framework of diminishing value in understanding the nature of social development at the end of the twentieth century.

The second component addresses one of the most important global phenomena affecting relations between countries and between social groups. Past studies and discussions on the subject have tended to concentrate on cases of ethnic violence. In contrast, this project will focus on set policies in countries which have been relatively successful in managing relations among different ethnic groups, whether in the domain of politics, culture or the economy. An example would be Tanzania, which is characterized by significant ethnic and religious differences, where state policies in spheres such as regional economic and educational development, fiscal redistribution, political representation, the allocation of functions and powers among national, regional and local levels of government, may have contributed to ethnic harmony. The project will provide for case studies and thematic papers which will synthesize experiences across countries on some vital issues, and for workshop to disseminate the findings to key actors in the Summit preparatory process. The case studies will be undertaken by research institutions in developing countries, coordinated by UNRISD.

The third component will focus on an assessment of the effects of new programmes implemented to provide social support in a period characterized by deepening poverty, fiscal crisis and economic restructuring. Systems of social services and social security built up over the past decades will be dismantled and replaced by new programmes and policies to address growing social problems. The study will examine the impact of new forms of social provisioning on disadvantaged and marginalized groups in society, focussing on targeting and the creation of special social funds. A workshop will provide an occasion for channelling the results of the project towards preparation of the Summit document.

Inputs

UNDP will provide three programme coordinators at UNRISD for a total of 29 work-months, 44 work-months of consultants; administrative support; three workshops, two conferences and publications.

Financial data

	$
Personnel	598 000
Training	300 000
Miscellaneous	252 000
Total	1 150 000

- - - - -